

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-19, 24-26, 30 and 32-39 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 9, 17, 32 and 36 are independent. Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18 and 19 have been amended. New claims 32-39 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-19, 24-26 and 30. Applicants further respectfully request consideration on the merits and allowance of newly added claims 32-39.

Applicants appreciate the time and courtesy extended by the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor to applicants' attorneys during the telephone interview of May 7, 2003, during which claim 1, the specification and the drawings were discussed in reference to U.S. Patent No. 5,596,373 issued to White et al. ("White"). In particular, the participants of the telephone interview discussed intended meaning of claim 1 and eventually agreed that the claims as intended are not anticipated by White as articulated in the Office Action dated March 11, 2003, and that the rejection of the claims over White was based on incomplete understanding of the claims. Applicants' attorneys agreed to prepare and file an amendment to further clarify patentably distinguishable features recited in the claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-21, 24-27 and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by White et al. Since claims 20, 21, 27 and 31 have been canceled herein, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection to these claims is now moot.

The Examiner states regarding claim 1, "White teaches a method for managing television program listings comprising: storing available television program listings in one or more databases . . . the program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries . . . utilizing a first filter . . . to select a subset of the plurality of program/event entries . . . wherein the first filter (for instance,

sub-category 1453) comprises a list of program/event entries (for instance, list of television programs 1405) . . ."

However, White fails to teach or disclose a method for managing television program listings selecting a first subset of the plurality of program/event entries using a first filter comprising a predetermined list of program/event entries that are compared against the program listings to select the first subset. Instead, White describes a search engine where each of the category and subcategory selections is a search criteria that does not include any program/event entries. Hence, White does not even disclose any predetermined list of program/event entries.

Further, the categories and subcategories are descriptive terms that broadly identify a particular type of show. A data field for each television show in White will be marked as being included in a certain category or subcategory. However, the categories and subcategories do not identify any specific program/event entries, but rather are only general search terms that are used to identify multiple program/event entries that match the category or subcategory. Thus, a search will generate a list of all shows that are included in the specified category and/or subcategory.

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention provide for a filter comprising "a predetermined list of program/event entries," not merely generic search terms. In certain embodiments, this predetermined list of program/event entries is compared against the program listings to select a subset of the plurality of program/event entries that is included in an electronic program guide. Comparing a predetermined list of program/event entries against program listings to generate an electronic program guide is patentably distinguishable over the descriptive term search engine disclosed in White.

Claim 1 recites, in a relevant portion, "selecting a first subset of the plurality of program/event entries using a first filter comprising a predetermined list of program/event entries that are

compared against the program listings to select the 'first subset.'" Since White does not disclose this limitation, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn and that claim 1 be allowed.

Since claims 2-4, 8, and 24 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, they incorporate all the terms and limitations of claim 1 in addition to other claims, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-4, 8 and 24 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

Claim 9 recites, in a relevant portion, "the first filter comprising a first predetermined list of program/event entries, and the second filter comprising a second predetermined list of program/event entries; and a processor which selects a first subset of programs according to the first filter and a second subset of programs according to the second filter, respectively, by comparing the first predetermined list of program/event entries and the second predetermined list of program/event entries against the available television program listings, to generate an electronic program guide displaying television program listings included in said first subset and said second subset." Since White does not disclose this combination, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 9 be withdrawn and that claim 9 be allowed.

Since claims 10-12, 14-16 and 25 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 9, they incorporate all the terms and limitations of claim 9 in addition to other claims, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 10-12, 14-16 and 25 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

Claim 17 recites, in a relevant portion, "filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources utilizing the first program filter to produce a first subset of programs by

comparing the first predetermined list of program/event entries against the programs in the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources; filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources utilizing the second program filter to produce a second subset of programs by comparing the second predetermined list of program/event entries against the programs in the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources." Since White does not disclose this combination, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn and that claim 17 be allowed.

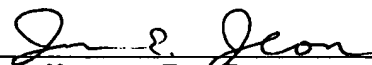
Since claims 18-19, 26 and 30 depend directly from claim 17, they incorporate all the terms and limitations of claim 17 in addition to other claims, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 18-19, 26 and 30 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

Claims 32-39 have been added and are also believed to be allowable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request that claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-19, 24-26, 30 and 32-39 be allowed and an early issuance of a patent. If there are any issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Jun-Young E. Jeon
Reg. No. 43,693
626/795-9900

JEJ/sd

LLK PAS502213.1--6/11/03 6:53 PM